

God of mercy, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

Bless the Members of the people's House with focus and purpose as they gather these few days before Thanksgiving. May their efforts give true cause for Americans to gather to give thanks.

In our world, there are many places where peace is lacking and cause for thanksgiving rare. Send Your spirit of peace upon our world. Help us all see in those we view as enemies our brothers and sisters.

As infections continue to spread, and hospitals nationwide are pressed to their limits, inspire all leaders to step forward in a unified response, protect and empower those who care for the sick, and bring healing to all who suffer during this plague.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to section 4(a) of House Resolution 967, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from California (Mr. HARDER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. HARDER of California led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will now take this opportunity to make an announcement concerning floor practice during the coronavirus pandemic.

First, the Chair wishes to underscore the importance of safe practices during votes. As the Chair stated on July 29, 2020, under clause 2 of rule I, the Chair is required to preserve order and decorum in the Chamber. This includes the responsibility to ensure the protection of Member and staff health and safety during proceedings.

To that end, based upon health and safety guidance from the attending physician and the Sergeant at Arms, the Chair would advise that all Members should leave the Chamber promptly after casting their votes. Furthermore, Members should avoid congregating in the rooms leading to the Chamber, including the Speaker's lobby.

As a reminder, the Chair will continue the recent practice of providing small groups of Members with a minimum of 5 minutes within which to cast their votes. Members are encouraged to vote with their previously assigned group. After voting, Members must clear the Chamber to allow the

next group a safe and sufficient opportunity to vote.

It is essential for the health and safety of Members, staff, and the U.S. Capitol Police to consistently practice social distancing and to ensure that a safe capacity be maintained in the Chamber at all times. The Sergeant at Arms is directed to enforce this policy.

Second, the Chair wishes to remind Members that the announcement of July 29, 2020, regarding the wearing of masks in the Hall of the House remains in effect. Members and staff will not be permitted to enter the Hall of the House without wearing a mask. Masks will be available at the entry points for any Member who forgets to bring one.

To reiterate, the Chair views the failure to wear masks as a serious breach of decorum.

I repeat, Members and staff will not be permitted to enter the Hall of the House without wearing a mask.

The Chair appreciates the attention of all Members and staff to these principles.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

WHAT IS HAPPENING IN WASHINGTON?

(Mr. HARDER of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HARDER of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask: What the hell is happening in Washington?

I am not one to spend my time throwing bombs on this floor, but during this single minute, another American will die from COVID, and even more people are slipping into poverty because this town can't get its act together.

I have had enough.

Millions of people can't get to work. They can't put food on the table. They are missing rent or mortgage payments.

Since we passed the CARES Act, which was a strong step forward, the best this town can do is finger-pointing.

It is disgusting.

Everyone believes we are incapable of doing our jobs, and right now, we are proving them right.

The reality is, there is plenty of blame to go around, but Americans need another stimulus check. They needed it months ago.

We need expanded unemployment back, especially now that cases are exploding at a higher rate than at any other point during this pandemic.

It is time to grow up. It is time to do what we are paid for. It is time to do our jobs.

PASS SOS ACT TO HELP LIVE MUSIC VENUES SURVIVE PANDEMIC SHUTDOWNS

(Mr. WILLIAMS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge passage of the Save Our Cities and Stages Act, better known as the Save Our Stages Act, as a stand-alone bill so that independent live music venues can survive and recover from COVID-19.

During this pandemic, these venues have been hardest hit, as they were the first to close and will be among the last to reopen due to safety restrictions and government mandates.

They generate billions of dollars in our national economy and create thousands of jobs every year. They are a cultural staple in central Texas and the 25th District, unlike any other place in our Nation.

Over the last several months, I have had the privilege of working with owners and managers of dozens of venues like Hudson's On Mercer Street in Dripping Springs, Songbird Live in Cleburne, and The Broken Spoke in Austin to highlight the urgency of passing this legislation.

It is crucial we deliver, not only for their livelihoods, but for the artists who start out on their stages and the future generations inspired by their work. Every day we waste is detrimental to this industry.

Mr. Speaker, I call on Speaker PELOSI to bring the Save Our Stages Act to the House floor for a vote.

In God we trust.

AMERICAN DEMOCRACY AT WORK

(Mr. BERA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BERA. Mr. Speaker, today I am proud of American democracy, and I want to talk about American democracy.

In this election, record numbers of voters turned out to cast their ballots, with very few voting irregularities.

A record number of young people turned out to cast their ballots and express their voice by voting.

We saw civil servants and folks tabulating those ballots. We saw American democracy at work, and we ought to be proud of that.

On January 20, we will welcome President Biden and Vice President KAMALA HARRIS in a peaceful transfer of power.

God bless the United States, and God bless our democracy.

CONGRATULATING DONNA GIVENS UPON HER RETIREMENT

(Mr. BYRNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Donna Givens

upon her retirement after a long and accomplished career at Baldwin EMC.

Donna's community involvement and professional accolades have led me and many others to call her the Queen of Baldwin County.

I do not bestow that designation lightly. I have known and worked with Donna for many years, dating back to my time in the Alabama State Senate two decades ago. She was a force even then, and her level of service and influence in southwest Alabama have only grown.

She is recognized across the region for being an asset to Baldwin EMC and their thousands of customers as well as the community at large.

I wish Donna my sincerest best wishes in her retirement. I have no doubt she will remain a fixture in the community she so humbly and ably serves.

FEDERAL EXECUTIONS DURING A PANDEMIC IS MORALLY BANKRUPT

(Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow, the Federal Government will execute a Black man named Orlando Hall in the middle of a deadly pandemic that is spiking toward unprecedented levels. The death penalty is cruel, unusual, barbaric, and immoral.

Mr. Hall will be the eighth prisoner executed under Bill Barr's leadership since June—eight expedited executions since June in this country—and the first by a lame duck President in a century, the eighth one being done tomorrow.

Carrying out Federal executions during a deadly pandemic puts hundreds of people at risk, from local community members, to Bureau of Prison employees, to lawyers and advocates.

The Trump administration's choice to risk life in an expedited rush to take life is morally bankrupt.

To quote my dear friend and late colleague Elijah Cummings, we, as United States citizens, are better than this.

CONGRATULATING MOLDOVA'S NEWLY ELECTED PRESIDENT MAIA SANDU

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, congratulations to former Prime Minister Maia Sandu on being elected the new President of Moldova on Sunday.

Correspondent Corneliu Rusnac has reported, "Pro-Western candidate wins Moldovan Presidential election," and that "Maia Sandu, a former World Bank economist who favors closer ties with the European Union, has won Moldova's Presidential runoff vote, de-

cisively defeating the staunchly pro-Russian incumbent, according to preliminary results released Monday."

It should always be remembered that Moldova was the first victim of Putin-maintained aggression by the occupation of Transnistria in 1991, which was a tragic prelude to the illegal Putin occupation of territories in the Republic of Georgia in 2008 and eastern Ukraine in 2014, where over 13,000 citizens have died. All three illegal Putin occupations persist today.

Americans are so grateful for this renewed opportunity to work with Moldova and congratulate the Moldovan people on their new President.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11th in the global war on terrorism.

God bless the people of Moldova.

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DESPERATE CALL FOR HELP MUST BE ANSWERED

(Mr. DEUTCH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, the COVID-19 pandemic is raging; 1 million cases in a single week; more than 100,000 cases each day since November 4.

Yet, as we head into the Thanksgiving holiday, I am so grateful for the nonprofit community organizations that are helping to get us through this: neighbors helping neighbors, serving meals, caring for seniors, and those with disabilities, housing, and job assistance, and more.

They are essential cords of our safety net, but that safety net is fraying. Calls to Broward County's 211 helpline quadrupled when the pandemic hit, and have seen a surge ever since.

With Federal assistance expiring, the calls get more desperate, and now the helpers are calling for help. Congress must answer that call. There is nothing more important in this body right now than getting help out to our communities.

The House, the Senate, the White House must get that help through the COVID-19 wave that is crashing across our country as we begin this holiday season.

The American people are desperate—desperate, Mr. Speaker. We can wait no longer.

HONORING THE CAREER OF RODERIC WOODRUFF GROAT, A/K/A ROD WOOD

(Mr. KATKO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished career of central New York broadcasting legend Roderic Woodruff Groat, and to celebrate his retirement after more

than 50 years on television in our community.

Better known as "Rod Wood," he is a household name in central New York and a trusted source of news throughout our region. For five decades, he has been there to deliver the news to families throughout our community.

Before beginning his career in broadcasting, Rod proudly served in the U.S. Army with the 504th Military Police Battalion. In 1976, he worked on NewsChannel 9, and has been a fixture at the station ever since.

Outside of work, Rod is extremely devoted to his family. He stood in support of his wife, Nanette, through her 9-year battle with cancer, and proudly celebrated 52 years of marriage before her passing earlier this year. Together, Rod and Nanette raised 5 children and were blessed with 10 grandchildren.

The dean of central New York broadcasting, our community will truly miss welcoming Rod Wood into our communities and our homes every evening.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House to join me in honoring Rod Wood for a remarkable 50-year career in journalism. I wish him all the best in his retirement.

FEDERAL INVESTMENT IN INFRASTRUCTURE

(Ms. PLASKETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, as a Member of Congress representing the Virgin Islands, I came to Congress determined to increase long-term Federal investment in infrastructure, among other things.

I congratulate the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee chairman, Mr. DEFAZIO; Highways and Transit Subcommittee chair, Ms. NORTON; and other committees for H.R. 2, the Moving Forward Act.

In the midst of so much uncertainty in the economy during the current public health crisis, the American people need the certainty of H.R. 2 to count on stable and strong investment in infrastructure to sustain and create jobs, and enhance the mobility and safety of American motorists, passengers, and throughput systems.

The Moving Forward Act makes a real investment in America, especially in underserved districts like my own. While all of the States have received small and steady increases in funding over the recent decade, severe cuts have disproportionately and negatively affected Americans in U.S. territories.

In the meantime, substandard highways, roads, and stormwater infrastructure have further affected harsh weather patterns. In my district, we still feel the aftermath of major category 5 hurricanes every day. It has been our new normal for some time before the current COVID normal.

We know firsthand that there are areas throughout this country that are